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Arizona House of Representatives

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

January 13, 1992

The Honorable William Reilly
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street SW
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Mr. Reilly:

As Chairman of the Arizona House Environment Committee, I feel it is my duty and responsibility to establish a direct and open line of communication between my office and your agency; specifically, regarding the situation we are facing with the landfill on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation. I would like to be kept informed on your progress with this difficult problem.

I have several questions in reference to Senator McCain's letter. Has the EPA ever formally authorized a tribal program for this landfill operation? If not, does the EPA have jurisdiction over this facility or does jurisdiction belong to the State of Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality? Is there jurisdictional authority for operation and compliance or does state and/or federal authority begin only after a violation has taken place? I have been informed that the EPA has authority over tribal lands after violations occur under RCRA and CDWA.

I am deeply concerned with the fact that chemicals from this unlined landfill could be leaching into groundwater supplies and the potential danger of human exposure to these chemicals or combination of substances. The potential threat to human health and safety in a situation like this cannot be ignored.

I am requesting that you keep me informed of the rights and authority of Arizona as well as the progress of your agency's investigation into this problem.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. MUNDELL
State Representative

WAM:bjm

cc: Senator McCain
Edward Fox, ADEQ
Rita Pearson
EPA - Region 9

Sally Mapes